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Established in 1935

THE INKWELL

Week of July 15, 2010

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AASU, SSU send students to Ghana

By Lauren Griffin
News Editor
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Five AASU students and one student from Savannah State University are studying abroad in Ghana. This was the first time AASU students have been given the chance to study in the African nation. They will return to Savannah on July 22.

AASU students Sonya Brown, Jeanette Lovett, TaNika Roberts, Megan Ganser, Patrina Lingard and SSU student Tonya Wright left on July 6 and won't be back in Savannah till July 22.

These students will be taking a course taught by AASU professor Kalenda Eaton, who teaches African-American

literature. Additionally, they will take a course taught by a University of Ghana professor.

"Experiencing something different can help one understand things on a bigger scale," Ganser said via e-mail. "Learning about something in a text book is one thing, but actually being submerged in it is completely different."

Throughout their time in Ghana, the students will be posting blogs about their experiences.

Study abroad programs are offered to many exotic locales, said James Anderson, AASU's director of international education.

"We've been searching for a destination for students with

GHANA | PAGE 8



Photo courtesy of AASU marketing communications
Sonya Brown (left), Jeanette Lovett, Tonya Wright (SSU), TaNika Roberts, Megan Ganser and Kalenda Eaton.

Crime Blotter Police arrest 4 on campus for drugs

By Kristen Powell
Staff Reporter

After several months of sharing information in an investigation, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team arrested three students on May 6 for drug-related charges, according to University Police Department reports.

UPD assisted CNT with executing search and arrest warrants for the group on campus.

AASU students Michael Fu, Calvin Wilson and Kenyon Booz were transported to the Chatham County Detention Center that day. The fourth suspect, Derrick Futrell Jr., who is not an AASU student, turned himself in to UPD on May 7, UPD Chief Wayne Willcox said.

Wilson remained at CCDC, but Fu, Futrell and Booz bonded out, according to Lt. Shawn Taber of the Community Relations Office at the Chatham County Sheriff's office.

Drugs, alcohol

UPD made seven arrests under charges of possession of marijuana, possession of alcohol by a minor and criminal trespass. At approximately 11:42 p.m. on May 22, Lt. John Bennett and Officer Tiffany Land were dispatched to Compass Point in response to a complaint of alcohol, according to police reports. UPD found alcoholic beverages in the room and that the majority of people in the apartment were under the age of 21. Police banned from campus all non-AASU students, who in turn received copies of AASU's Criminal Trespass notice.

Later that evening, UPD responded to a report of a smoke detector removed from a room at University Crossings. Police officers said a strong smell of marijuana was coming out of the room upon their arrival, and someone tried to flee out the back. Five of the people banned from campus in the previous incident were in the room.

CRIME | PAGE 8

Century plant blooms in front of Solms

Lauren Griffin
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Students walking past Solms Hall in the last few weeks have noticed what appears to be a giant asparagus stalk shooting up into the air.

In reality, they are seeing *Agave salmiana* – or the century plant as it is more commonly known – bloom.

The century plant may have a slightly deceiving name according to AASU biology professor Frank Thorne. He said the name more likely implies there is a great period of time in between blooms, unlike some smaller flowering plants, which bloom once every season. It does not necessarily bloom once

PLANT | PAGE 8



Photos by Andrea Cervone
Agave salmiana, commonly known as century plant, is shown blossoming over the course of several months.

AASU president finalizes budget impacts on programs

Departments that stay will combine or strengthen for efficiency

By Kristen Powell
Staff Reporter

AASU President Linda Bleicken sent an e-mail to students and faculty on May 26 that put an end to the speculation of the last several months.

Due to a decrease of \$3.03 million in AASU's budget for Fiscal Year 2011, AASU's dental hygiene department will transfer to Savannah Technical College, and professional and continuing education courses at the Armstrong Center are discontinued. The four departments of the college of education will become just two. The respiratory therapy and communication sciences & disorders departments will stay intact at AASU, a change from the expectation that both programs would be cut from AASU along with dental hygiene.

Bleicken also said in the e-mail that in-state students without guaranteed tuition plans can expect an increase of \$200 per 15 credit hours.

Suzanne Edenfield, department head of dental hygiene, said that students have been informed as to what they can expect upon entering the associate degree program this fall.

First-year students received the news in their acceptance letters that AASU will trans-

fer the program to Savannah Tech at the end of the school year. The American Dental Association Commission for Accreditation must first approve the transfer, which is expected to happen at their meeting in February.

Second-year students who finish their degree programs in the upcoming school year will graduate from AASU.

Of the 11 faculty members in the dental hygiene department, two are tenured, and Edenfield said they will find positions within AASU; the other nine instructors have received letters that their contracts will not be renewed after the school year.

Edenfield said that only two students withdrew from AASU's program upon learning of the transfer.

"It's because of our reputation they want to come here," she said, and added that the majority of AASU dental hygiene students are employed by dental professionals. Students are still choosing dental hygiene as the field they want to go into, regardless of whether they eventually attend Savannah Tech or graduate from AASU.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in May 2009 that approximately 173,000 dental hygienists are employed in the United States and earn a median hourly

wage of \$32.38.

Edenfield said classes for the department's 45-48 students will continue at the Savannah Mall clinic during the transition.

Douglas E. Masini, associate professor and director of the department of respiratory therapy, said that the online classes developed at AASU will, at a minimum, double the approximately 40 students the department now has, as well as create opportunities for active military service members to advance in their careers.

"We're surrounded by the military; we should be doing something for the troops other than bumper stickers," Masini, who served in the Marines, said.

The hybridized program, which combines class time, WebCT Vista, Skype and mentors, will make the degree program more accessible for adult learners and students who deploy with their units. With certain military occupational specialties, students can be accepted with advance credit into the AASU program, and once deployed, they will finish their degrees under the supervision of their mentors, usually a supervisor.

Masini said the program is being submitted to the University System of Georgia for programmatic accreditation.

Wynn Army Community Hospital on Fort Stewart as well as Tuttle Army Health Clinic on Hunter Army Air Field will have spaces to accommodate learners in the program.

He said the educational center at Ft. Stewart is also looking forward to letting military members know about the opportunities at AASU. He also said opportunity for students to complete clinicals on location will create more inquisitive professionals who are prepared to go into any of the subspecialties available with respiratory therapy degrees.

College and counseling chief at Fort Stewart's education center, Gail Burgo, was not immediately available for comment.

According to Bleicken's e-mail, the college of education will become just two departments: childhood and exceptional student education, and adolescent and adult education.

Patricia Wachholz, dean of education, was not immediately available for comment, and the college of education's website has not yet been updated with the new information, but the e-mail said the restructuring will take place fall semester 2010 and will reduce administrative costs.

Check Inside

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Campus Briefs

AASU names vice president for advancement

AASU appointed J. Scott Joyner as vice president for advancement July 1.

In his position Joyner will facilitate relationships that support AASU. His responsibilities will include the Office of Advancement, Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Marketing and Communications. He will also work in conjunction with the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees and with the AASU Alumni Association.

Previously Joyner was the vice president of university advancement and director of development at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina. He was also the director of development at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Joyner has held the post of assistant director of development and director of development for athletics at Rice University in Texas. He was also director of development for athletics at Elon University in North Carolina.

"Scott's experience in university advancement and his accomplishments in fundraising will be an asset to Armstrong as he takes on a very important leadership position with the university," Ellen V. Whitford, AASU vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty, said.

Joyner holds a master's degree in athletic administration from Georgia Southern University and a bachelor's degree in communications from North Carolina State University.

AASU fall registration deadline is nears

The deadline to register for fall classes at Armstrong Atlantic State University is Aug. 1. Classes begin Aug. 16.

Savannah City Council recognizes AASU's 75th anniversary

The Savannah City Council recognized AASU's 75th anniversary with the reading of a proclamation in the Mercer House on May 27. Dorothy Kingery, a former AASU faculty member and member of the AASU Foundation Board, opened her home for the event.

Guests included AASU President Linda Bleicken, Clayton State University President Tim Haynes, Georgia College and State University President Dorothy Leland, North Georgia College & State University President David Potter and Felita Williams and Melinda Spencer with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Larry Stuber read the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Otis Johnson.

A history of Armstrong researched and written by AASU Professor of History Emerita Janet Stone will be published in book form this coming fall.

In Sept., the university will host an event to celebrate the opening day of Armstrong Junior College in 1935.

NEWS

AASU welcomes incoming freshmen

**By Brad Curran
Staff Reporter**

Navigate, AASU's freshmen orientation program, kicks off its third session for fall semester July 16. It will be the third of seven campus orientation days, four of which will be geared toward incoming freshmen, two of which will be for non-traditional students and the final session before the start of the semester will cater to late comers.

Some 300 incoming freshmen are expected attend the July 16 session, along with up to 300 parents, said Student Affairs administrative assistant Akillah Futch.

"The purpose of student orientation is to help incoming students adjust to the transition they will be making into college life," said

Orientation and Advisement Director Greg Anderson. "Some of it is for brand new students, traditional students right out of high school, and some of it is for non-traditional students."

"The goals of orientation don't change with the different students, but the delivery changes a bit," he said.

The goal of Navigate is to help incoming students feel more prepared to face the new responsibilities of college life – an often scary prospect for students just out of high school.

AASU's new student guide will be distributed to students and parents at orientation.

The guide addresses many questions incoming students have about college life, such as "how do I communicate

with my professors?"

Anderson said the orientation session includes programs for students and parents, including introductions to faculty and a campus tour.

Participants will also get an introduction to student clubs, organizations and other extracurricular activities.

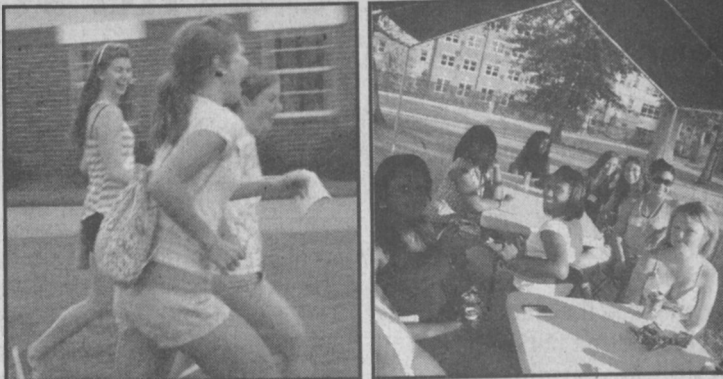
"Overall, we try to make it fun for the incoming students and try to make them excited about coming to Armstrong and make them aware of different opportunities, how to be connected with each other," Anderson said. "By the end of the day [participants will] have some kind of connection with a campus representative such as a faculty member."

The transition into college

life is also a challenge for parents – whom students often remain dependent upon during their college careers.

Anderson said Navigate is also structured to help parents make the transition. Parents will learn about the financial aid process and what their child's major requires academically. They will also discuss the different services that will be available to their children while they are away.

The final Navigate session exclusively for freshman is Aug. 6 and the final session exclusively for transfer students is July 23. A joint Navigate session will be held Aug. 11.



Photos courtesy of Somi Benson-JaJa
Potential freshmen visit AASU during a Navigate session June 18.

Wynn Sullivan joins UPD

Addition of deputy police chief just one change of many for campus police

**By Kristen Powell
Staff Reporter**

Immediately after the Armstrong Center's courses for professional and continuing education were discontinued on June 30, Wynn Sullivan, former director of the program, was named deputy police chief of the University Police Department effective July 1.

UPD Chief Wayne Willcox said that Sullivan will be in New Orleans until Friday on an assignment for David Carson, vice president for

business and finance.

One of these partnerships includes working together with the criminal justice department to develop a new course and another includes fire safety training. Willcox said to look forward to fire drill training in the upcoming school year, along with more training using the Bullex Digital Safety equipment.

Bullex allows departments to train people to put out fires using either laser "extinguishers" for train-

ing inside or water and compressed air versions for training outside. Officer Tony Johnson, who also serves as captain of the City of Savannah fire department, will offer the training.

Not only does UPD have the only Bullex system in the state, but the next closest one is in Jacksonville, Fla. Willcox said the benefits of the system are that people can learn how to put out fires without damaging the environment or using

excessive resources, such as chemical extinguishers and diesel fuels.

Willcox said that officers were taking their first classes in digital forensics at the cyber-security center as well.

Parking decals are also set to change in the near future. Decals for fall will be permanent and placed on the outside of windshields. Parking lot patrollers will be able to scan the barcodes to make sure the decal matches the vehicle to which it was as-



Photo courtesy of AASU Marketing and Communications
Former director of professional and continuing education Wynn Sullivan was appointed deputy police chief July 1.

AASU enriches local economy

**By Lauren Griffin
News Editor
news.inkwell@gmail.com**

The University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth conducted a study on 35 USG institutions and the economic impact on their regional economies. The study showed AASU had a \$215.5 million impact on Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, Liberty and Bulloch counties.

There were three categories that the Selig Center used to evaluate university-related expenditures: student spending, university payroll and operating budget.

The 35 institutions had a collective economic impact of \$12.7 billion in output, \$7.6 billion in gross regional product, \$5.7 billion in income and created 112,336 jobs, both full and part-time for 2.8 percent of Georgia's jobs.

Michael Toma, director of the Center for Regional Analysis, explains that the presence of a university contributes to the economy in a number of different ways. One way the university generates new economic growth is its students. Students who move to Savannah to attend AASU bring new revenue into the local economy.

Toma said students contribute to the economy when they go out to eat or go to see a movie – the money goes toward paying the salaries of servers or ticket takers.

However, there's a catch – not all the money spent stays local. For example, a portion goes back to a headquarters elsewhere – this is referred to as leakage.

According to the report, AASU created 690 jobs on campus and 1,388 jobs in the community. For every job created on campus, 1.6 jobs are created off campus due to university-related spending.

The Student Union and Winward Commons construction projects generated an additional \$51 million on top of the \$215.15 million. More than 400 jobs were created locally for the two building projects, with 300 of those directly supporting the construction sector, which in the last three years has experienced a three percent loss of jobs.

"Jobs were not created by the construction, but existing construction jobs were supported," Toma said. "University presence contributes to the vibrancy of the economy and in a vibrant economy you have a greater amount of business

and services available." Taxpayer dollars from across the state of Georgia go to pay the salaries of the faculty at AASU and other USG institutions, and in turn those faculty invest those dollars locally, recycling the money.

Aside from the monetary value the university contributes to the region, Toma said that the university provides a wide range of music, arts and other forms of entertainment that would not exist in the region in its absence.

"Universities contribute to the social and cultural fabric of the community," he said.

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Have an opinion on something we covered? Send a letter to the editor at inkwell@armstrong.edu.

Surge seen in number of spill-eating microbes

**By Renee Schoof
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)**

WASHINGTON –The number of naturally occurring microbes that eat methane grew surprisingly fast inside a plume spreading from BP's ruptured oil well, an oceanographer who was one of the first to detect the plumes said Tuesday.

Samantha Joye, a marine sciences professor at the University of Georgia at Athens, said it's good news that the microbes are eating the methane. However, the microbes also use oxygen in the water, and Joye said the repercussions of the resulting oxygen depletion aren't yet known.

Joye said she hadn't completed her analysis yet but that the data so far show the microbes are much more abundant in the plume than they are in the water layers above and below it.

In lab experiments, the

number of microbes nearly doubled in a 24-hour period.

"That's really, really surprising," Joye said. "Clearly the microbial community is responding rapidly and rigorously to the input of oil and gas."

In May, Joye lead a scientific mission on the research vessel Pelican that found early evidence of deepwater oil plumes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration immediately reacted with skepticism. Since then, however, there has been other evidence of subsurface oil. Joye has written a blog and holds weekly news conferences to make her subsequent research findings public.

The microbes consume oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico that flow from some 1,000 natural seeps. Joye wrote in testimony to Congress last month that under normal conditions, natural seeps produce about 95

percent of the offshore oil found in the water.

The BP blowout vastly exceeds that amount. The natural leakage is about 1,000 to 2,000 barrels a day throughout the entire Gulf. The official estimate of the flow from the broken BP well is as much as 60,000 barrels a day, gushing from one spot.

The cleanup of BP's oil in deep water is largely up to microbes because there's no way for humans to remove the dispersed oil and gas.

It's not known how long it will take microbes to process the oil and gas in the water after the flow stops, which could happen this week if BP succeeds with its new cap.

The natural gas component of BP's blowout is mainly methane. Joye said the microbes her team collected in water samples appear to be methane-eating bacteria. They took the samples from a deep-water

plume of dispersed oil and gas about two miles from the wellhead.

More experiments will also be needed to determine whether other microbes are also responding in similar ways. The presence of oil stimulates the growth of oil-eating microbes as well, Joye said. Scientists also want to know how long the microbe populations can grow before they run out of nutrients.

They're also looking to see if the microbes will draw down oxygen to levels that would make the waters unsuitable for life. The Gulf of Mexico already has dead zones created by nutrients from fertilizer carried from the Midwest by the Mississippi River.

Scientists working for the NOAA who were tracking the spread of dispersants in the water found that oxygen wasn't depleted close to the wellhead, but that's because the "plume is very

young" there and the microbes there hadn't had time to use up the oxygen yet, Joye said.

She said her team detected oxygen depletion in the deepwater plume about five to six miles from the wellhead.

Joye said she also was curious about the chemical dispersant BP has used to break up the oil and prevent slicks from reaching shore.

The dispersants are a

complex mix of chemical compounds. Some of them can break down into other compounds that may be more or less toxic than the original ones, Joye said.

"We really have to worry about that as much as we worry about the oil and gas, because that's another feature of the spill that's going to take some unknown amount of time to be removed from the system."

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AASU builds in right direction

New development spurs higher quality student life

The Inkwell Editorial Board

AASU is starting to look like a traditional university, and it only took the most upside-down, inside-out, bass-ackwards route to traditionalism over the past 75 years.

It's glorious and invigorating. Who would ever think those words describe a new freshman dormitory hall, student center, a giant convention center and newly face-lifted intramural field? Well, those very words describe the general emotions of the Pirate community entering the 2010-11 school year, when just six months ago words like dejected, broken and victimized appropriately fitted any member of the University System of Georgia, thanks to their price hikes. At least we can visualize where some of those hard earned dollars are going.

The AASU powers that be finally got it right by following conventional wisdom. For the first 74 years, the Pirates were stumbling through life like an out-of-towner stumbles through River Street on St. Patties Day. As a college, and then as an university, AASU catered to its commuter students and not the



Students, faculty, and staff form "75" to celebrate the 75th anniversary at the intramural field on Nov. 2, 2009.

Hank Sharpe/File photo

traditional 18-22 year-olds that somehow survive on a strict diet of Ramen Noodles and Orange Gatorade.

Then, after AASU became a real-deal four-year university, came the dorm apartments – a.k.a. the next generation dorm. The only problem with those on-campus beasts was that other off-campus options offered lower prices,

weren't located on a dry campus and allowed pets, all the while AASU housing did – and still does forbid libations and man's furry best buds. At least those are the most prevalent excuses for not living on-campus for Pirates.

Then other short-comings was that an incoming freshman could choose to explore their off-campus

housing options, thus missing out on an intricate, intoxicatingly fun – not that kind of intoxicating, keep your pants on Campus Police – and socially vital college experience.

What kind of college craziness do people miss if they just come to class and leave for their off-campus housing right away? They may never go to the rela-

tively brand-new Student Recreation Center where they can make new life-friends in a pick-up basketball game, avoid the freshman 15 by figuring out how to consistently exploit the advantages of a Stairmaster or meet their soulmate – who also is their personal trainer. They may never keep their parents happy by maintaining their Hope

Scholarship if they never step foot in the eternally silent, but ecstatically friendly Lane Library. They may even require quadruple bypass heart surgery if they continue to binge eat at fast food restaurants instead of at the new Student Union. That place is so new and shiny that when the light reflects off of it, you actually hear "bling-bling."

It is amazing, and it's all AASU's. Everything from the coffee shop to the movie theater, the cafeteria to the outdoor fountains that splash-splash water all day long belong to each and every Pirate.

It is surreal to think all of these fresh-off-of-the-shelf changes have come into fruition in the past five years, for the most part at least. AASU has transformed from a local blessing for the more contemporary commuter student to an international university for all students, commuters and computer gamers, national championship athletes and even international math-letes.

Welcome to the AASU of 2010, the home of the Pirates and a haven for higher understanding.

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There was a time – for most of us – when life was all about steering clear of kindergarten classmates' cooties.

Planning for the future just seemed easier then.

Some of us wanted to be firemen, some of us wanted to be astronauts. For many of us, those dreams changed as we got older. Whatever our ambitions may be, we've come to college to achieve them.

There is no better time than now, in college, to gain experience when the full weight of the world isn't bearing down on you just yet.

At some point in college, most students need money. Many are forced into the realization that they have to get

Students need job networking, not just class for success

Josh's views are his own and do not necessarily represent those of The Inkwell Editorial Board.

jobs.

Those that never hear that small voice in their head – be it for college savings or benevolent fiscal parents – they live truly blessed lives.

But for the other 99 percent of us the voice speaks constantly. "You need money," it whispers ever so softly.

Yes, it's kind of spooky, but not having money when you need it usually is.

Even though finding employment can be tough these days, students should think twice before jumping into just any job. As a college student, you have credentials that might help you avoid getting a job you don't really want.

You have the ability and resources to get a job that helps prepare you for your post-college career.

If you think you can make some money drawing, take a few classes and then throw up some fliers for graphic design. Join a few clubs – hell, make a club that works for you – and people that can help you will show up. If you can type, then type up papers or find a data entry job. One place on campus – Career Services – is designed to help students find a place to work that will benefit them with more than just money.

If you don't know of something, there are dozens of professors that more than likely willing to help you out.

For those who have taken loads of classes, stayed up late nights doing homework or balanced work while studying for a test, all is well. You will probably get your grade and probably even smile about it.

Studying won't necessarily net you a mansion and five cars right after college. Grades are made in class, but careers are developed through extracurricular work. Success happens when both come together.

There's nothing wrong with devoting enough time to classes to earn straight A's. There's also nothing wrong with taking a job for quick money it's necessary. But keep in mind, developing connections in your desired career while still a student might just land you the job you want after graduation.

Don't work for only grades or money. Work for your life after school.



BACK TO SCHOOL GALE

Don Wright/MCT

SPORTS

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Pirate athletes wow locally and abroad

AASU places 77 student-athletes on PBC Presidential Honor Roll

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The AASU athletic department placed 77 student athletes on the Peach Belt Conference's (PBC) Presidential Honor Roll for 2009-10. Setting the AASU school record, as announced by PBC officials. Student athletes must maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher for the entire 2009-10 academic year to be honored.

The number eclipses the previous high of 74 honorees during the 2006-07 year. Four seniors finished their AASU careers by being named to the Honor Roll four times. They were women's soccer player Kristin Burton, volleyball player Nicole Yates, and women's tennis players Martina Beckmann and Alisa Kagukina.

In all, 1,080 student athletes were named to the PBC Presidential Honor Roll from the 13 league schools.

For the third straight year, the honor roll has been divided into four groups: Presidential Scholars, Bronze Scholars, Silver Scholars and Gold Scholars. All student athletes with a GPA of 3.00 to 3.24 are Presidential Scholars, while Bronze Scholars are 3.25 to 3.49, Silver 3.50 to 3.74 and the Gold scholars are those

with a 3.75 to 4.00 GPA.

AASU's PBC Presidential Honor Roll honorees for 2008-09 are: (Times named to the Honor Roll are in parenthesis)

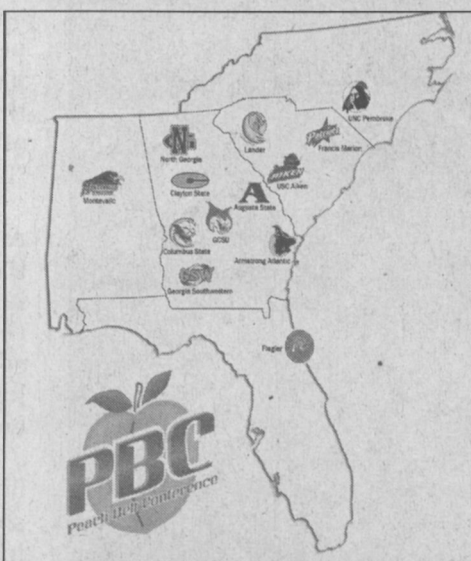


Photo courtesy of PBC

Gold Scholars: Heather Echols, Torrie Bevollo (2), Amy Birkemeier (2), Gwendolyn Clarke (4), Casey Howett (2), Leia Pittman, Portia Jones (3), Kelli Bahr (3), Kristin Burton (4), Daviana Garcia (2), Elizabeth Kerkoff (3), Kristina Pascutti, Alisa Kagukina (4), Alida Muller-Wehlau (4).

Silver Scholars: Joshua Heath (3), Chris Rabe, Ryan Smith (2), Tyler Erickson, Matthew Motes (2), David Patterson (3), Shelby Duff, Megan Qualls, Heather Walker,

Brendyce Budd (3), Kathrin Standhardinger, Kimberly Knox (2), Kelly Pearce, Emily Cattanch, Tracey Mitchell (3), Carey Patterson (2), Kathleen Henry (2).

Bronze Scholars: Chris Base, Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo (3), Thomas Gray (2), Brandon McCreery (3), Bryan Roby (2), Austin Edens, Johnathan Prussia, Marc Savio, Jacob Tilton, Eudaldo Bonet, Daniel Regan, Michele Remlinger, Briana McFarland, Erin O'Rourke (2), Bjorg Magnea Olafs (2), Madison Reed, Kyn-dal Schaff, Martina Beckmann (4).

Presidential Scholars: Ben Jackson (2), Jesse Osborne, Michael Price, Cameron Scott, Auston Thomas, Christopher

Walker, Grant Domsic, Zach Corliss (2), Dustin Allen, Mark Rucker, Mikk Irdoja (2), Ashley Buckett, Alisa Malte, Natalie Edgeworth, Marina Marinova (2), Nicole Yates (4), Arpine Amirkhanyan, Ashley Slade, Dartayvia Thomas (2), Victoria Bennett, Alyssa Anderson (2), Danielle Fey, Jessica Flores (2), Samantha Held (3), Brooke Lamberth, Morgan Mitchell, Amber Raney, Sona Novakova (2).

Courtesy of Sports Communications

AASU senior outfielder Alex Wyche led NCAA Division II in stolen bases during the 2010 season with the release of the final statistics from the NCAA.

Wyche led the nation in total steals with 48 and in stolen bases per game at 1.0. He is the first AASU player to lead the nation in steals, and he is the second player to lead the nation in a statistical category over the last three years. Juan Dorado led DII in sacrifice hits in both 2008 and 2009.

Overall, Wyche is the tenth AASU player to lead the NCAA in an individual statistical category. The Macon, Ga. native's 48 steals were the second-most in a single season in AASU



Photo Courtesy of Sports Communications

Pirate outfielder Alex Wyche tracks down a flyball in the outfield. He played solid defense in 2010 as a compliment to his savvy baserunning.

history. Wyche hit .343 this season with 5 triples, 3 home runs and 40 RBIs.

Pirate Athletes represent on international stage

Courtesy of Sports Communications

Rising AASU seniors Mikk Irdoja and Arpine Amirkhanyan have been selected to represent their respective sports of tennis and basketball in 2010 on national teams.

Irdoja has been named to the Davis Cup squad for his native Estonia. He was the top-ranked singles player in NCAA Division II as a junior for the Pirates in 2010. Irdoja has played for Estonia on three other occasions. Most recent was in 2008, where he saw action in doubles in three different matches.

Estonia meets Bosnia and Herzegovina in the clay-court Tere Tennisekeskus in Tallinn in a Group II quarterfinal match. The winner will take on the winner of Portugal and Cyprus in the semifinals. The winner of Group II moves up to the Europe/Africa Group I in 2011.

Meanwhile, women's basketball player Amirkhanyan will suit up for the Armenian national basketball team at the FIBA European Championships.

Amirkhanyan was announced to the team roster by the national squad. Armenia is hosting the Division C of

the championships and will welcome in six other nations: Andorra, Gibraltar, Moldova, Malta, Scotland and Wales. A promotion to Division B of FIBA Europe is on the line. The two top teams from Division C in the tournament will be promoted.

A native of Van Nuys, Calif., Amirkhanyan joined AASU from Arizona Western Community College for 2009-10 and averaged 10.0 points and a team-high 7.9 rebounds per game. She started all 26 games for the Lady Pirates last season and ranked seventh in the Peach Belt Conference in rebounding.

"Championships are won with defense and rebounding," Armenian head coach Gia Ghazanchyan said. "Arpine brings both of these to the Armenian National Team."

The tournament is taking place in Yerevan, Armenia, nine hours ahead of Savannah.

"I think it's a great opportunity for Arpine to play on a national team," AASU head coach Matt Schmidt said. "She will have a chance to gain valuable experience playing on the international stage which will help her continue to grow as a basketball player. I hope that

she can bring that experience into her senior season with the Lady Pirates."

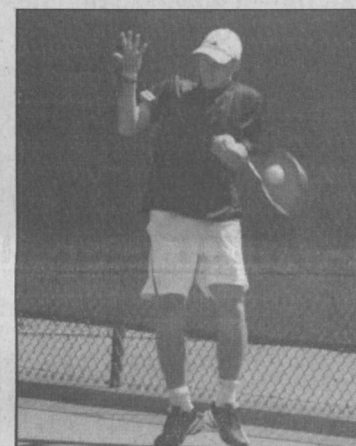


Photo courtesy of Sports Communications

Top: Mikk Irdoja takes his No. 1 national DII ranking into the realm of international tennis as he represents Estonia in the Davis Cup. Bottom: Lady Pirate Arpine Amirkhanyan takes her talents to the Armenian National Team.

Pirate Soccer revamps look

Five newcomers add instant improvements

Story Courtesy of AASU Soccer 2010 Recruitment Guide



Photo Courtesy of something sports

The 2009 Lady Pirate Soccer team dogpiles in celebration after winning the PBC Championship in the 2009 PBC tournament.

Five soccer players have signed National Letters of Intent for the 2010-11 academic year with AASU: Andye Dawson, Stephanie James, Jordan Otto, Taylor Schultz and Nadima Skeff. Four from this year's class hail from the state of Georgia, while the fifth is from Brazil.

The Lady Pirates are returning 21 players for 2010, with 14 having started a significant number of games during their careers.

The 2009 team finished 16-4-3 on the season and claimed the program's first Peach Belt Conference tournament championship. AASU finished the 2009 campaign ranked 23rd in the nation by the NSCAA and advanced to the second round of the NCAA National Tournament. The 2010 Pirates will be led by senior Carey Patterson and sophomore Morgan Mitchell. Patterson garnered All-Conference and All-Region honors, while Mitchell was All-Conference, All-Region and an honor-

able mention All-American as a freshman.

"Though this is a small class in terms of numbers, it's big on talent," said coach Eric Faulconer. "The first thing I like about all five of these young ladies is that they have great character. Four of them are products of very successful club programs out of the Atlanta area, and Skeff has a tremendous amount of international experience. I feel that this class can make an immediate impact for us on the field this fall."

Dawson, from Senoia, Ga., is a versatile left-footed player who will compete for several positions on the field for the Pirates. Dawson is a member of the AFC Lightning '92 White team coached by Andy Thompson. AFC is ranked as the No. 2 club team in the country by Soccer in College magazine and was a 2009 US Youth Soccer Regional Finalist. Dawson's team won the 2009 Disney Showcase in the top flight of the U-17 age group. She was also a member of the AFC

teams that were regional finalists in 2008 and 2006. AFC also won the 2009 Region III Premier League, finished 2nd in 2008 and first in 2006.

Dawson was the High School Region and County Player of the year in 2008 at East Coweta High School and has been a member of the Georgia ODP state team for the past five seasons.

James, from Marietta, Ga., is a tenacious defender that possesses excellent speed. She's very skillful on the ball and likes to get forward in the attack. James played her club soccer for Ray Tomlin and Jay Denslow on the NASA '10 Elite. NASA '10 Elite was a Georgia State Cup Finalist in 2009 and 2007, as well as a semifinalist in 2008. The team also was a member of the Region III Premier League. She played her high school soccer at Kell High School and was club teammate of fellow AASU 2010 signee Taylor Schultz.

Otto is a local product, coming out of St. Vincent's

Academy in Savannah. Her quickness aids her as a technical winger that will add additional pace to AASU's already athletic front line. She has a tremendous work ethic, is extremely fit and played her club soccer for Brian Moore at Concorde Fire South Elite '92. Concorde was a Georgia State Cup Semifinalist in 2009. In 2007 she was the Coastal Georgia Soccer Association Select Player of the Year and a member of the Georgia State ODP team.

"For the second year in a row we have signed the top senior out of Savannah," Faulconer said. "Jordan was one of the first players I had the chance to work with when I arrived here in Savannah in 2005. From that day forward it was my hope that she would one day wear the AASU jersey. Her passion for the game and tremendous drive to be the best that she can be is off the charts. She is quick, technical and has a burning desire to win. She will do great things here at

AASU, and we are thrilled that she is a Pirate."

Schultz is a solid central defender that should compete for immediate playing time in AASU's backline. She's a reader of the game and can distribute the ball out of the backfield while dominating in the air. Schultz does a good job stepping in front of opposing players to win the ball. She played her club soccer on the NASA '10 Elite squad with James. NASA '10 Elite was a Georgia State Cup Finalist in 2009 and 2007, as well as a semifinalist in 2008. The team also was a member of the Region III Premier League. She played her high school soccer for Kennesaw Mountain. KMHs made the Georgia State High School Class 5A Final Four in 2008.

Skeff is a highly technical player who will look to make an immediate impact in the AASU midfield or at forward. She possesses excellent vision and the ability to strike the ball well with either foot. Skeff has won many indi-

vidual and team awards in both soccer during her youth career. In March 2010, she was a member of the Brazilian Under-20 National Team that won the South American Cup championship. The achievement automatically qualifies Brazil for the Under 20 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany, where she will represent her country.

"We are very excited to have Nadima join our program," said Faulconer. "She is extremely talented and I feel she can be a real impact player in our conference and region. Nadima possesses all the attacking qualities needed for our system of play. She has excellent vision, is a clinical passer of the ball, can cross with accuracy and can finish with either foot. Our program has always embraced our international student athletes and we are looking forward to Nadima's arrival in mid-August."



Geigermania: What do you expect?

By Adam Geigerman
Sports Editor
sports.inkwell@gmail.com

Welcome to Bizzarro World. Everything is going completely and utterly in the opposite direction it should, at least, according to the statistics, projections and history.

And everyone knows the paper aspects of sports – statistics, projections and history – are one of, if not the solely, most intricate part of spectator sports. Las Vegas has constructed a billion-dollar a year industry by odds-making, thus bankrolling on history.

Until 2010:
What history would ever point us to a MLB season that isn't even to its mid-way point yet, but has bestowed the viewing public with nearly half a dozen no-hitters? Especially with two of them being the Haley's Comet of baseball, a perfect game – only 20 have been produced in the entire 100 plus year history of Major League Baseball.

The cherry that tops that sundae of inexplicable facts is that the most famous of all the no-hitters of 2010 and perfect pitch performances will be the most imperfect one. Armando Galarraga blasted 26 outs worth of a flawless baseball game on June 3. Then his perfect game was corrupted

and shattered into a trillion beautiful pieces, much like the city he and his Tigers call home, Detroit.

A blown call by the first base umpire. It was a gaffe, and it saved history from being taunted. Pitchers are just supposed to be the guys that tee it up for hulksters like Barry Bonds and A-Rod.

Right?

2008 Summer Olympics. We have baseball – which has been internationally dominated by the Japanese – and football – no one else plays it, as opposed to fútbol, the globe's foremost sport.

Soccer has always been the USA's Joe Dirt. Yeah, its adorable and fun sometimes, but at the end of the day, we – Americans – forget it in the

perate housewives have and apply it to the world's premeir sport."

The Yanks kicked conventional wisdom in the teeth by winning their group – over the soccer-gods from England – and in doing so raised the blood-pressure of the world's most obese nation.

Finally, on the most local



Photo Courtesy of Gouhier-Hahn-Orban/Abaca Press/MCT
Fernando Torres, although he was invisible throughout the entire World Cup, was part Spanish team that won. It

That's what the juiced up '90s taught us.

What about Uncle Sam's soccer? That motley crew collection of faux-hawk frolicking pretty boys that run – sprint, really – around a soccer ball like a bunch of foreigners? Americans don't play soccer because we've got basketball – whose glory was just regained at the

middle of the Grand Canyon and don't look back.

Then the Cardiac Cowboys volleyed their ways into the sports-loving souls of every ESPN addict to their drama-drenched FIFA World Cup bid. It was like the writers of "Lost", "The Hills" and "ER" rallied together and said, "Hey, let's take all the drama that dumb blondes and des-

of stages for the Pirates, goes the championship chances of AASU Tennis. Name the past two national champions in Division II Tennis.

If your answer rhymed with anything other than shmarmstrong, then you're wrong. So who was going to stop the Pirates from taking a third?

Well for the Lady Pirates,

Pirates' Plunder

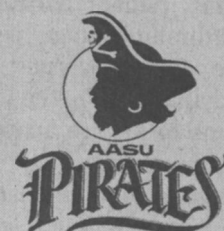
AASU Sports Trivia, previews and more
By Adam Geigerman
Sports Editor
sports.inkwell@gmail.com

AASU Sports Trivia

- 1.) AASU Women's Tennis has won three consecutive DII National Championships. Only three other schools have ever done that. Name them.
- 2.) Which school did the Lady Pirates beat for the championship in each of the past two years?
- 3.) Which three DII offensive records have Pirates' Baseball set in the past three years?
- 4.) How many current, future and former Pirate Golfers participated in July's Georgia Amateur Championship in 2010?

Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

Camps



Soccer:

Eric Faulconer 2010 Summer Soccer Camp
Aug. 2-3
Finishing/Goalkeeper Camp
Boys and Girls 10-18



Volleyball:

Will Condon Pirate Volleyball Camp
July 19-21
For 9th-12th graders
Overnight Camp:

Sess. 1: July 15-18
Sess. 2: July 22-25



Basketball:

Jeremy Luther Men's Basketball
Aug. 2-5
Age 7-14



AASU wins third straight DII women's tennis titles Senior Gabriella Kovacs has this repeat thing down

Courtesy of Sports Communications

A year ago in Sanlando Park, Gabriella Kovacs' three-set thriller clinched AASU's 2009 NCAA Division II National Championship. This past spring, Kovacs finished off BYU-Hawaii's Shawni Porter in straight sets to give top-ranked and undefeated AASU its third consecutive NCAA Division II Women's Tennis National Championship, 5-1 over the Seasiders.

The Lady Pirates (33-0) joined an exclusive group of schools to ever win three consecutive DII national women's tennis titles: Chattanooga (1983-85), SIU Edwardsville (1986-89) and Saturday's opponent, BYU-Hawaii (2002-04). The title is also the sixth in the history of AASU women's tennis, second-highest in NCAA DII history.

Kovacs and her fellow se-

niors, Martina Beckmann and Alisa Kagukina, form a core group along with junior Alida Muller-Wehlau. Together they have won three straight NCAA DII National Championships for the Lady Pirates.

"We've had all these great players, but sometimes the national championships have straddled generations," head coach Simon Earnshaw said. "Sometimes you're lucky to get only one, but this group has managed to put three in a row together. If you think about the first year when they were here and compare that to what they've been able to accomplish, it's a great testament to what hard work and a belief in what team effort will do."

Beckmann and Muller-Wehlau got the match off to a successful start for AASU by winning a pivotal doubles point as play began. Kovacs and Novakova, ranked No. 7 in the nation in doubles, began with an 8-4 win at No.

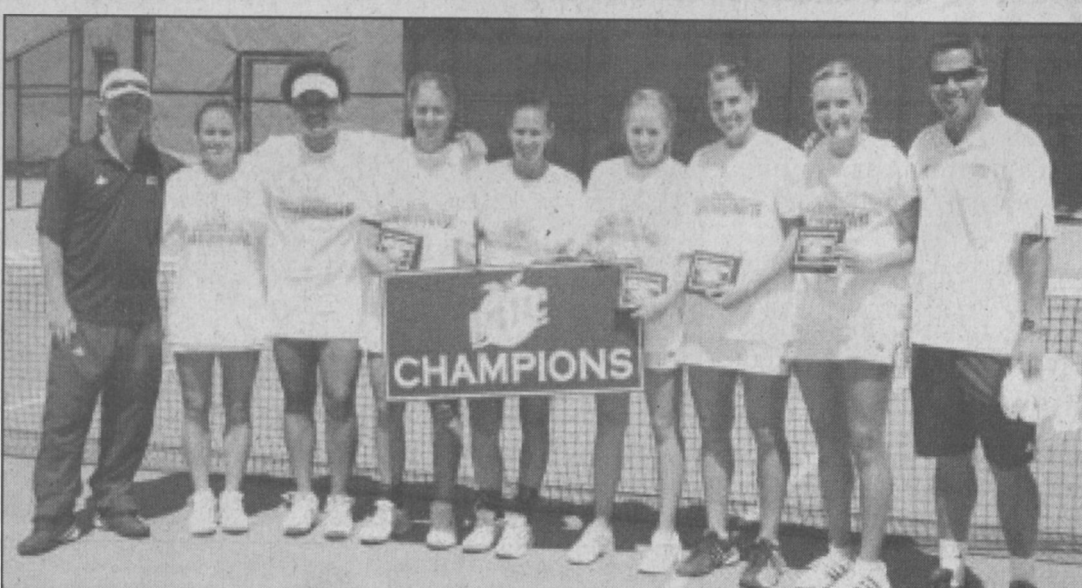


Photo Courtesy of Sports Communications
Senior Brendyce Budd has been a Lady Pirate volleyballer since her freshman year in 2007. She aims for a national championship for her senior year.

2 doubles. This came over No. 24-ranked Ayako Ikeda and Porter. BYU-Hawaii answered with an 8-2 win by Jenny Chin and Salina Aranda over No. 23-ranked Kathleen Henry and Tina Ronel.

That set up Beckmann and Muller-Wehlau, ranked No. 3 in the nation in doubles, facing the No. 1-ranked BYU-Hawaii duo of Yuan Jia and Elwin Li. The German duo won three straight points at 5-all to claim an 8-5 win and give AASU a key 2-1 advantage heading into singles play.

"I was confident once we won No. 1 doubles," Earnshaw said. "I felt before the match that if we could get either No. 1 or No. 3 doubles, we would be in good shape. The 5-all game with Martina and Alida was key, and I think it was the biggest game of the match. And the extra work both put into their service game this year paid off."

As singles play began, the Lady Pirates got off to a fast start, winning four of the first six sets. First to finish was No. 49-ranked Henry, who claimed a 6-2, 6-4 win over Sophia Simmons at

No. 6 singles. No. 21-ranked Ronel beat Ikeda, 6-1, 6-3, about five minutes later.

Kovacs was already in her match-finishing game when Ronel's match ended. Less than two minutes later the senior from Szazhalombatta, Hungary, finished match point against Porter, 6-2, 6-2. This gave AASU the national championship for a second straight season.

The 33 wins this season for the Lady Pirates sets a new school record, eclipsing the 32 wins by the 2008 team. During the three-year National Championship run, Earnshaw's Lady Pirates are an impressive 93-2.

"It's amazing when you look back now, even from 2003, how we've been able to put this together," Earnshaw said. "Realistically, if we were going to be able to win national championships over DII, we were going to have to equalize what BYU-Hawaii has been able to accomplish since they've moved into DII."

"If you look back to 2003 and compare, we have been able to do that. The three national titles are a culmination, really, of the last

seven years where we have only had five losses. If you keep up that level of success, the championships will come."

"We've had a lot of great players come through our program since 2000, and I think the earlier players laid the groundwork for what we have been able to accomplish these last three years."

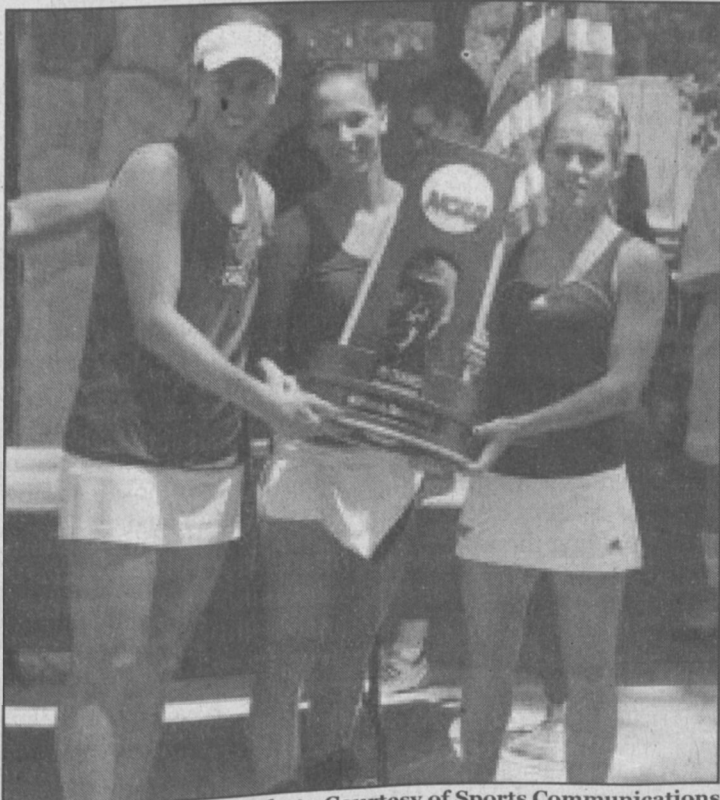


Photo Courtesy of Sports Communications

From left to right: Gabriella Kovacs, Alisa Kagukina and Martina Beckmann hoist the NCAA DII Women's tennis championship trophy. They were the only seniors on the 2010 Lady Pirate team.

AASU Sports Trivia Answers

- 1.) Chattanooga (1983-85), SIU Edwardsville (1986-89) and BYU-Hawaii (2002-04).
- 2.) BYU-Hawaii.
- 3.) Juan Dorado set the record for sacrifice hits in 2008 and 2009, and Alex Wyche set the steals record in 2010.
- 4.) Eight – Matt Motes, Ridge Purcell, Tyler Erickson, Jacob Tilton, Tripp Coggins, Matt Morris, Wills Smith and Gus Wagonei

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Angular pop band brings green message

Big Tree plays Sentient Bean

By Andrea Cervone
Photo Editor
photo.inkwell@gmail.com

Big Tree's been called everything from hippies to indie rockers to pop lovers.

But they don't exactly fit into any of these categories.

Armed with throbbing rhythms, radiant harmonies, an enthralling stage performance and an earnest love of playing music, the quintet aims to inspire audiences across the country.

The band brought charm to the occasionally rough terrain of Savannah's music scene when they played the Sentient Bean on June 13.

The New York-based quintet contains vocalist and pianist Kaila McIntyre-Bader, vocalist Madeleine Miller-Bottome, drummer Colin Fahrner, guitarist Dan Pirella and bassist Luke Bace.

The perfect vocal harmony of the two female singers combined with the mood inducing talents of the instrumentalists produced a post-rock sound that utilized organic folk, blues, ambient rock and modal jazz.

"Big Tree is really unlike a lot of the bands I have heard here in Savannah, and they were really great live," said AASU student Thomas Neidhardt.

"They have a really nice mix between some up-tempo



Photo by Andrea Cervone

New York progressive rockers Big Tree perform during a two-hour plus set at the Sentient Bean on East Park Avenue July 13.

songs, that have a really danceable feel to them, and some more ballad-like songs that focus more on the two girls singing and show that the guys in the background are really able to play their instruments."

Since they were the only band performing that night, Big Tree played a two-hour set in the relaxed atmosphere of the downtown coffee shop. They played roughly 20 songs, breaking only once – for coffee.

"Probably my favorite thing about the show was the fact that they had such a long set," said downtown Savannah resident Tyler Vogan. "A lot of bands would have just played for an hour or so and called it quits, but Big Tree kept playing. It never seemed like a show that was too long either though, it just had a really nice overall flow to it."

However, Big Tree did not

play non-stop through their set.

Throughout the show the band shared candid tour experiences, joking with the audience and with their fellow band mates. The undeniable chemistry between the band members combined with the laid back surrounding of the Sentient Bean, creating an ambient undercurrent.

"Having a band like Big Tree at the Bean was honestly a perfect

mix for me," Neidhardt said. "The vocal harmonies of the band creates a very easy-going atmosphere and it works really well with the relaxed feel that this cafe has. It's pretty awesome to be able to enjoy a good cup of coffee and listen to some good music."

Over the course of the show, Big Tree did share a bit about their origin and ambitions with the audience. Referring to themselves as an angular

pop band for naturalists, the band formed a little over two years ago.

"We're a band of good friends who love playing music together and for other people," said vocalist McIntyre-Bader. "All we know is when we play music people dance and sing, and we have so much fun."

Although Big Tree records, produces and peddles their own CDs, they insisted their passion for music can only truly be appreciated through their live performances.

During the show, the five-piece group shared one of the most impressive feats on their roster. They started a project to raise enough funds to purchase a van. But not just any van – they wanted a van that would run on vegetable oil.

Big Tree managed to get enough backing for this project to raise over \$8,000. All of the donations they received went straight to the van, covering its purchase and engine conversion.

"If their sunny nature didn't completely steal my heart, then their vegetable oil 'hippie' van definitely finished the job," said downtown resident Ashley Pinchback, an avid supporter of the organic lifestyle. "The project really shows that everyone can do their part in helping to maintain the beautiful world we live in."

Smart shopping makes dorm design a cinch

Make tile printing easy

By Desiree Faulkner
Staff Reporter

For most college students, a dorm room is the first place they are really able to decorate without parental consent.

But dorm living does have its stipulations: no candles, no holes in the wall and no painting. On top of that, the decorating needs to be affordable. However, there are several options to finding stylish decorations.

For free wall art, turn to Rasterbators.

Many Rasterbators – tile printing programs that allow users to print images larger than a standard page – can be downloaded for free.

First, the student uploads a picture of his or her choice. Instantly, the student owns a blown up (rasterized) version of the original. The printouts can be hung pretty much any-

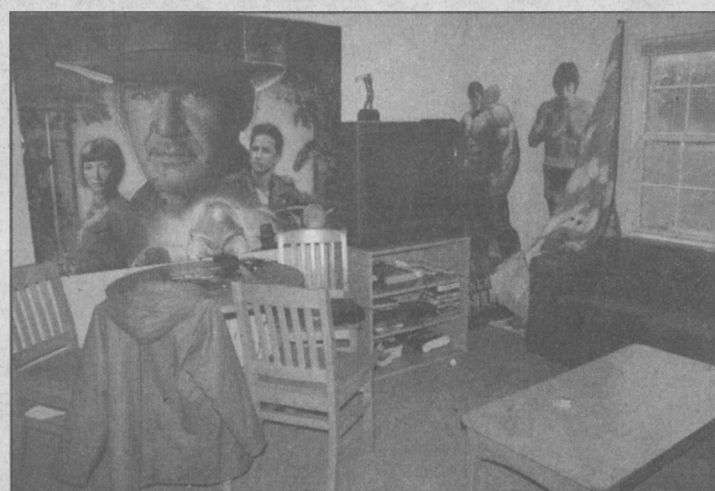
where.

It's not that hard to find decorating supplies on a budget.

Each year before school resumes, Target launches a line tailored for college students. The line offers a range of products that are sensible, stylish and affordable. Lamps, picture frames, organization tools and bedding are often marked down and look fabulous.

Thrift stores can also be a goldmine for cheap décor.

Salvation Army and Goodwill Industries are the perfect places to find pictures, rugs that only need a quick cleaning and other nick-nacks. Since items tend to be so inexpensive at these places, it may require a couple of trips to find something dorm-worthy. However, thrift stores and missions can be ideal to find that one-of-a-kind piece.



Photos by Andrea Cervone

Top: Get Rasterbation ideas from this Compass Point dorm room.
Bottom: Incoming freshmen can enjoy decorating Windward Crossings.

Add the finishing touches

Once you find the perfect décor, you'll be ready to start spicing up your dorm room. Here are some ways to respect campus rules and still achieve a great look.

- To hang up pictures, use 3M Command Wall Hooks. These will not damage the wall, are sturdy and will hold picture frames as well as anything else.

- To solve the candle problem, invest in flameless candles and rechargeable batteries. Since there is no flame involved, you aren't breaking any campus rules and you can keep your dorm smelling good.

- To change the wall color, use fabric or a tapestry. If you love having some color on the walls, the easiest thing to do is to tape fabric up onto one wall. Fabric stores have a wide range of colors and patterns, and places like Urban Outfitters have a variety of tapestries. Head straight to the sale section for the best deals.

For more information on tile printing programs, visit homokaasu.org/rasterbator.

Bestselling trilogy wraps with fickle, gratifying read

'Hornet's Nest' begins slowly, ends strong

By Travis Morningstar
Staff Reporter

For the uninitiated, Stieg Larsson's first two behemoth works, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" and "The Girl Who Played With Fire," follow the exploits and sleuthing of hardboiled, left-wing journalist Mikael Blomkvist and antisocial cyber-punk Lisbeth Salander (the titular "girl") in a surprisingly misogynistic and seedy Sweden. Unlike its predecessors, the final installment of Larsson's Swedish crime saga, "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest,"

proves a fickle labor of love to read.

Not skipping a single beat, "Hornet's Nest" picks up directly from where "Played with Fire" leaves off: in a bizarre cliffhanger with Salander completely incapacitated by a bullet to the brain, lying on a hospital bed in Stockholm. Larsson unfortunately hampers much of "Hornet's Nest" action and intrigue by pouring so much dramatic energy into Salander's near-death experience in the previous chapter. Keeping the most compelling character of the series thusly bed-ridden for most of

the novel is exactly as dull as it sounds. Instead, about 30 barely differential Swedes of the doctor/lawyer/police variety hog the spotlight.

The other supposed main character, Mikael Blomkvist, who could easily be pegged as Larsson's shameful proxy, is needlessly boring. Rather than purposefully stoic, he can be found in every scene either drinking coffee or having casual sex, seemingly without a care in the world.

As for the bulk of "Hornet's Nest," the focus shifts between the inept good guys and the "villains" of the story. These

villains are rendered to be either surreal James Bond caricatures or merely too decrepit to appear threatening. Seriously, one of the main baddies is retired and on dialysis.

Most tiring of all, "Hornet's Nest" dips too frequently into lulls of bureaucracy and trite conversation. Larsson attempts to emphasize the political ramifications of what his senior citizen antagonists are explaining in utterly unforgiving and grave detail. By the end of their numerous dictums, only Larsson himself can be intrigued by such minutiae.

As returning readers can expect, Larsson's prose is simply impenetrable. Prepare to wince as a lot of characters tend to look over at one another for only seconds that "feel like hours." As a special treat to those readers who secretly enjoy reading the ingredients on the back of cereal boxes, "Hornet's Nest" cruelly lists and elaborates on a wealth of arbitrary details with pages occasionally consisting of entire grocery shopping lists.

The textural quality Larsson continuously aimed for wore especially thin in this last book.

To Larsson's credit, his creation Salander ultimately kept me trudging through implausible coincidences, invincible German henchmen and hundreds of pages of tedium, but not much more. As slow-paced and didactic as a great deal of this novel is, the final moments of "Hornet's Nest" are rewarding and vindicating. If you have already invested yourself in the first two chapters of Larsson's (mostly) thrilling series, these moments are absolutely necessary.

'Mousetrap' snaps into Jenkins Theater

Masquers perform to-die-for murder mystery

By Eric Roberts
Staff Reporter

For the many readers who are uninitiated in the deep field of mystery theater, "The Mousetrap" might not be an instantly recognizable name – but around the world, this play is a legendary installment for not only the mystery genre, but theater itself.

"Mousetrap" opened in the west end of London in 1952, starting the longest recorded opening circuit in history. Consequently, the first circuit isn't even over – we're now at year 58, with over 24,000 performances to boot.

This summer, the AASU Masquers have started their own run of Agatha Christie's iconic whodunit, and the results are quite pleasing.

The story begins with a young couple, living in the



Masquers summer theatre troupe performs Agatha Christie's hit.

Photo courtesy of Mario Incorvaia

sparsely trafficked outskirts of London, as they struggle to open their humble hotel in time for their oncoming guests.

As the clients file in to fill their reservations, a streak

of chaotic murders shatters the guise of serenity in the hotel, leading to an impromptu investigation and conflict amongst the snowed-in patrons, with one solitary goal: Stay alive

until the snow thaws.

Under the direction of Peter Mellen, the Masquers have begun what promises to be a fantastic run of Christie's murder-mystery.

The care put into the set

design and the involved character portrayals on-stage prove this to be a labor of love for the cast and crew.

"We have a really wonderful cast," Mellen said. "They're all terrific and I've had a fantastic summer because of them."

"The Mousetrap" will return from July 15-18.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. on July 18) in AASU Jenkins Hall Theater.

Admission is \$10 per seat with discounts available to military, seniors, alumni association members, students/children and AASU faculty/staff. Students with valid Pirate Cards get in free.

Ugly Radio Rebellion plays the Wormhole

Former Zappa vocalist fronts classic act

By Shawn Evans
Staff Reporter

It's not often Savannah hosts concerts by renowned musicians.

But on June 11, Ugly Radio Rebellion played a three-hour fusion set at the Wormhole on 2307 Bull Street.

Guests crowded the bar that night to hear URR's blend of jazz-fusion and rock. The band also covered tunes from American music legend Frank Zappa.

URR is not any run-of-the-mill cover band, though. Former Frank Zappa vocalist and sideman Ike Willis fronted this classic act during this portion of the tour.

After a short disclaimer regarding the usual length of their shows, the

band kicked off their set with "Florentine Pogen," a Zappa tune that grabbed the crowds' attention.

As the night aged, so did the crowd.

Many of the audience members were a bit older than the normal music bar crew. Bobbing their heads to some of their old favorites, the audience assisted in capturing the essence of a jazz-fusion show.

URR continued with other noteworthy songs such as "Cosmic Debris," "Zoot Allures," "Zombie Woof" and – to the surprise of many audience members – "Whipping Post" by The Allman Brothers.

The audience seemed enraptured by the stage presence and experience of Willis, whose musical background stretches

into the '70s. Belting out familiar tunes and showcasing mastery over the frets of his guitar, the famous front man and his band mates forged a memorable experience.

Before the show, URR relaxed and talked to locals, unwinding after the trip to Savannah. Willis read a Clive Cussler novel at the bar and discussed the importance of being a nice, down-to-earth musician with a few of his curious fans.

"It pays the bills and puts your kids through college," Willis said. "What is the point of being rude to your fans? They help you make it this far."

Despite devoting so much of his time to URR, Willis also lends his musical talents to nearly a dozen other ventures across the globe.

"I am involved in several Zappa cover projects around the world," he said, listing off various countries he has performed in with these bands. "But my two main projects are Ugly Radio Rebellion and Project/Object. I have been playing with Ugly Radio Rebellion for nearly a decade."

Willis said he'd been touring once or twice a month since last November.

"My last tour was two weeks ago in Europe with Project/Object," he said.

After the show, the band said their good-byes and packed up their gear. Before Willis left the stage, he reassured the crowd that Ugly Radio Rebellion would return someday.

"This isn't our first trip to Savannah," he said.

"It is just the first one in about three years. We actually plan on making Savannah a hot-spot for our tours."

Wormhole owner Amy Stafford welcomed the idea.

"We would love to bring them back," she said. "It's pretty early in the night and we've already got a nice turn out."

Hear Ugly Radio Rebellion's music online at uglyradiorebellion.com

For a list of upcoming shows and events at the Wormhole, visit wormholebar.com

'Hex' blights comic book culture

By Eric Roberts
Staff Reporter

I anticipated seeing "Jonah Hex" since the very first preview.

When the titular character fired his horse-mounted Gatling guns into a wall of enemy gunslingers, the stars seemed to align. I thought that, once again, theatergoers would be blessed with an awesome shoot-'em-up comic book movie.

It had to be awesome, right? Wrong.

The plot is fairly straightforward. Hex (Josh Brolin) is an ex-Confederate soldier who wanders the countryside as a bounty hunter. He then discovers the man who murdered his wife and son is at large.

The murderer – old brother-in-arms Quentin Turnbull (John Malkovich) – is gathering an army to assemble a super-weapon to assassinate the president and take over the country.

The movie wasn't entirely bad.

Brolin executed his role decently. [The direction was poor, the writing was atrocious and nonsensical and the cast was a joke.] Still, Brolin's natural grit made the comic book image work on the screen, a feat that would not be easy for an amateur actor. While he did not have the best material to work with, he commanded the screen quite well.

But his performance is the film's only positive aspect.

The story progression is hyper-cliché. The writers use an absurd amount of convenient plot devices to save Jonah from trouble. The visuals are a mess – I've seen better CGI in movies from the '80s.

Megan Fox appeared unnecessary to the entire movie. Every time she showed up, they photoshopped her face enough to make her look like a cartoon.

Jonah's supernatural side seemed more like an inconvenience than a helping hand – i.e. sneaking into an enemy fortress with a murder of crows in tow.

Finally, the studio casted comedic actors into very serious roles, which did not play well.

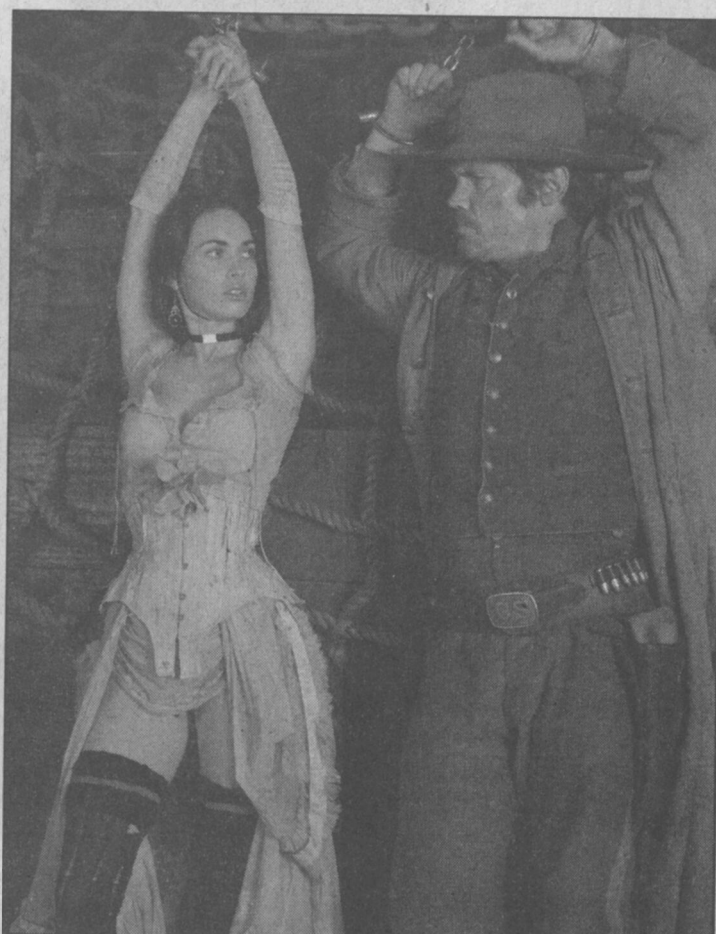
This movie ham-handedly rips off the Will Smith western, "Wild Wild West," which, no joke, was 10 times better than "Hex."

★★

1.5 out of 5 stars
A Warner Brother Pictures production
Directed by Jimmy Hayward

Starring Josh Brolin, John Malkovich, and Megan Fox

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, disturbing images and sexual content



Megan Fox and Josh Brolin get tied up in "Jonah Hex".
Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Stay
Entertained
in Savannah

THINKmusic

On Tuesday, July 20 at 8 p.m., one-man pop act, Chris Bell will play at the Sentient Bean at 13 E. Park Ave. With songs like "Summer Love," Bell's performance could be apropos for students on vacation. Also at 9:30 p.m., the Protomen, Super 8 Bit Brothers and Adventures o Duane and Brando will play at the Wormhole on 2307 Bull St.

On Saturday, July 31, Two Man Gentleman Band will play the Sentient Bean at 8 p.m. Also at 11 p.m., Husky Brunette and American Gun will play the Jinx at 127 W. Congress St. Cover TBA.

On Friday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m., Lord Green will play the Pony Pen, an all ages venue located at 650 E. 36th St. This show is for donations only. Also at 9:30 p.m., the Jinx will host the Coney Island Cockabilly Show at 127 W. Congress St. A slew of bands, Jason and the Punknecks, Viva Le Vox, Holly Roller Sideshow, Hickry Hawkins, and Guitar Bomb will perform. The perfect back-to-school bash, the Cockabilly show will also feature Burlesque acts. Tickets are \$13.

THINKMovies

On Saturday, July 31, at 7 p.m, the classic musical My Fair Lady, starring Audrey Hepburn, will play at the Trustees Theater at 217 Broughton St. Based on George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, this film depicts a Cockney flower girl's journey to the bourgeois class, all ignited by a pompous phonetician's bet with a colleague. Tickets are \$6.

The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Mount Everest hits theaters on Friday, August 6. This documentary investigates the disappearance of British explorer, George Mallory, whose body was found 75 years later in the "death zone". Also opening on Aug. 6 are George Gallo's "Middle Men" and Adam McKay's "The Other Guys".

Going Out...

Through the Blue Star Program, the Telfair Museum of Arts at 121 Barnard St. will be offering free admission to military personnel and their families all summer until September 6.

On Thursday, July 29, Club One at 1 Jefferson St. will host the Miss Savannah Gay Pride Pageant. Also, every Monday night at 5p.m., attendees can play the Nintendo Wii for free. Tournament play begins at 9 p.m.

Staying Home...

"Clash of the Titans" puts Perseus (Sam Worthington) in a power struggle against Hades (Ralph Fiennes). This action-packed box office smash hits the new releases on Tuesday, July 27.

theinkwellonline.com

GHANA | FROM PAGE 1

an interest in Africa to study abroad,” he said. “Savannah State already had a study abroad program in Ghana, and through our cooperation with them we were able to do this program for less than it would have cost to send students to the Caribbean.”

This program will offer AASU and SSU students the opportunity to learn about African culture and experience it firsthand.

“Students have the opportunity to learn about

the rich cultural history of Ghana and learn more about the people, economy, various regions and politics,” Eaton said via e-mail. “Historically, Ghana has had a very close relationship with the United States with regard to political economy.”

Knowing SSU had previously sent students to Ghana, Anderson met with Emmanuel Naniuzeyi, SSU’s director of international education, to discuss a possible collaboration between the two universities.

“We are partners and members of the same

institution,” Naniuzeyi said of the collaborative effort. “... Through cooperation, we can provide more opportunities for our students.”

This trip is not the first time the two institutions have teamed up for international trips.

AASU and SSU recently sent students to Taiwan for the Harvard Model United Nations conference.

Naniuzeyi said he and Anderson will soon discuss sending students to Haiti for a community service effort. The partnership improves the

educational experience for students from both colleges, he said.

Across the world in Ghana, students are reaping the benefits of that partnership.

“So far, it has exceeded [my expectations] beyond measures,” said Lovette via e-mail. “My advice is to do it. Don’t be your own stumbling block, because you only have one shot at life.”

Follow the students’ experience in Ghana at akwantu.wordpress.com.

CRIME | FROM PAGE 1

During the search, Officer David Perry located a bag of marijuana hidden in the toilet tank, according to police reports. The suspects were transported to the CCDC by SCMPD.

UPD responded to a report of the smell of marijuana coming from a room in Compass Point on April 18. After investigation, AASU students Christina Rust and Emily Knight both gave pipes used to smoke marijuana to UPD. The police located and took into evidence two pill bottles and one toy container used to store marijuana as well as one can and one bottle of beer from Knight’s dormitory residence, according to police reports.

Willcox said that the investigation has been deferred as both students’ parents have been informed and are now involved in the case.

UPD arrested Christopher Riddle, 20, on University Drive after Riddle submitted to a breath test in which he blew .078 on April 17, according to police reports. At 4th Precinct, police administered the Intoxilizer 5000, and Riddle blew .097 twice. He was transferred to the CCDC.

After stopping a driver for failure to stop at a stop sign on University Drive, UPD arrested Devin Rice

on June 21 for DUI less than safe driver when Rice admitted to police that he had smoked marijuana, according to police reports. Rice was also banned from campus.

Altercations

A complainant reported to UPD on April 22 that there had been a fight at her campus residence. Willcox said it was a domestic dispute in which an ex-boyfriend had come to obtain property and that damages were made to the door and some shoving occurred. The female did not provide any details about who her ex-boyfriend is or where he lives.

UPD arrived at Parking Lot 9 on May 10 in response to a report of a fight. No arrests were made in the incident.

Thefts

Between April 19 and June 25, UPD took reports on thefts of hubcaps, a student parking decal, \$740 from a student’s bag in her room, failure to return an American Government 1100 textbook, a wallet left in a roommate’s car, a university laptop stolen from a storage closet in an office, pressurized gas canisters from Plant Operations and a safe containing \$500-\$900 from a Coca-Cola delivery truck.

PLANT | FROM PAGE 1

every century.

After the plant blooms, the entire mother plant will die.

Thorne said that while the plant releases bulbs that fall and root in the ground to create many smaller plants. After the mother plant dies one of the smaller offspring will likely take its place.

There are many different variations of Agave on campus including Agave salmiana and Agave Americana, as well as some hybrids of different species. The Agave has very large fibrous leaves that can be used to make rope like materials and the nectar of some Agave are harvested to make tequila and other beverages.

All of the plants in front of Solms are part of the thorn garden and share some similarities. Phillip Schretter, head groundskeeper at AASU, said the thorn garden works well in that area for many reasons.

“The soil types on campus vary on each side,” he said. “The soil on the east side of the campus has more loam, where the soil on the west is more sand.”

The plants in the thorn garden thrive in sandy soil. The thorns, among other characteristics, help them to be harder than other plants.

The century plant makes for a great plant in residential landscaping especially in xeriscaping—a landscaping technique that uses plants that require little water—which is useful especially in a climate like Savannah where heat indices have reached 113 in June alone. Century plants and other plant species in the thorn garden have characteristics that help them to retain water, such as thorns and thick foliage that store water for times of drought.

Schretter said in addition to having a unique look, the thorn plants help to keep students on the sidewalks and out of the garden.

It was Schretter who began the extensive collection of plants now on campus.

He said he looks for something different when deciding which plants.

“What I’m looking for is a name that I can’t recognize,” he said.

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